

NAME: Kageta, Yukiko DATE OF BIRTH: 1887 PLACE OF BIRTH: Okayama  
Age: 85 Sex: F Marital Status: W Education: Junior high school

PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 1916 Age: 28 M.S.P.B. Port of entry: Seattle  
Occupation/s: 1. Cook for farm laborers Housewife 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of residence: 1. Florin, Ca. 2. Galt, Ca. 3. Placerville, Ca.  
Religious affiliation: Christian Church 4. Fair Oaks, Ca. 5. Loomis, Ca.  
Community organizations/activities: Women's Society & Prayer meetings at church

EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: Marysville Assembly Center  
Name of relocation center: Tule Lake, Ca. & Heart Mountain  
Dispensation of property: Boss & friend's home Names of bank/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held in camp: 1. Mess hall worker 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held outside of camp: Red Cross worker  
Left camp to go to: Loomis, California

POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/es: 1. Loomis, California 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Religious affiliation: Christian Church  
Activities: 1. Women's Society 2. Prayer meetings 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: Deceased

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 12/21/73 Place: Loomis, Ca.

*Translator: Yasuko Akanatsu*

NAME: MRS. YUKIKO KAGETA

AGE: 85 years old

Birthdate: Meiji 20 (1887)

Place of birth: Okayama Prefecture, Wakegun, Kagato

Year you came to the U.S.: 1916

At what age did you come to the U.S.: 28 years old

Major Occupation: Cook for farm laborers and a housewife

Husband's (wife's) Occupation: Fruit rancher

Relocation Camp: Tule Lake then Heart Mountain

Interview Date: December 21, 1973

Interviewer: Reverend Heihachiro Takarabe

Translator: Yasuka Akamatsu

Translated Date:

NAME: MRS. YUKIKO KAGETA

Q: Please tell me your name?

A: My name is Yukiko Kageta.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Okayama Prefecture, Wakegun, Kagato. The town is now incorporated and named Bizencho. It is where the famous "Garyo" pine tree is. It is not a tall tree but the trunk spreads over about a third of an acre. That's where I was born. Lord Kiyomarie Wake was also born there.

Q: When were you born?

A: I was born in Meiji 20.

Q: How old are you now?

A: I am going on 86 years old.

Q: Then you are 85 years old.

A: Yes.

Q: I would like to ask you about your home in Japan?

What was your family occupation?

A: My father was a master carpenter. He was the foreman. He still wore "Samurai" hair-do in those days. It's a long time ago.

Q: What was your father like?

A: He wasn't big in stature. Just about the size of my late husband which you see in the photo here. He didn't have hobbies. I liked to sing and dance when I was a child

and still do. My grandmother was accomplished in these arts. In those days, there was no piano. I played the "koto" and my sister-in-law played the "shamisen" well. In my school days, we did musical trio sometimes.

Q: What was your father like?

A: My father was about the size of my eldest son, Joe.

Q: Was he a stern person or a tender person?

A: He wasn't too stern but was strict as my grandmother raised him with "Samurai" ideals. My mother was a farmer's daughter and it was a little difficult for her to get along with my grandmother. My grandmother was very particular. She didn't want the maid to bring the warm water to the washroom in the morning but wanted my mother to bring it, let me wash first and made my mother wait until grandmother finished. Then my mother combed my hair. We had to go and worship before our family "shinto" and "Buddha" shrine before we sat for breakfast and I had to bow and say good morning to everyone and say "itadakimasu"<sup>1</sup> or otherwise I couldn't have my breakfast.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: There were five of us. An older brother, a younger brother, I was the eldest of the girls and had two younger sisters.

Q: Did each of you have to say good morning and "itadaki-masu" to your grandmother, father and mother?

A: Yes! Otherwise we were not allowed to eat. It was time to go to school so all of us sat and said good morning and "itadakimasu". Otherwise grandmother would not let

us eat. In the old days, we were raised in this type of family. I don't know if it was because I was destined to come to America. My goal was to become a Red Cross nurse. My older brother was an army man. He and my school principal came and said, "Yuki do not go to Christian church. If you go to a Christian church, the westerner will take you away", but I did not listen to them. No matter what they said, I went.

Q: Were you attending Christian church then?

A: Yes, I had been attending since I was 7 years old.

Q: How did you get involved?

A: When I was attending Sunday school, the pastor was Rev. Mizote who came from Kobe City and my Sunday school teacher was a graduate of Kobe Women's College, a Christian school.

Q: When you were 7 years old, was there a Christian church in your town?

A: Yes, there was. Our town was small but it was on the main highway (National Highway), it opened up rather early and there was a Christian church. The pastor's daughter and I were friends and we went to church together. People kept asking me, "Are you still going to Christian church?", but I refused to listen to them and kept going. I may have been destined to come to America.

Q: What was your schooling?

A: There were schools in my home town. Elementary and junior high school was there but girl's senior high

school was in Okayama City.

Q: Did your father let you attend elementary, junior high and senior high school?

A: No, he did not let me go to the senior high school because in those days, they did not let girls receive higher education. I got upset and said I would leave home. I had a difficult time as my uncle who was in wholesale fish business liked to drink and did not like Christianity. Everyone was like that. But my younger brother was a friend of the pastor so we kept going together with a few others and pushed it through.

Q: How many years did you attend school?

A: I graduated junior high school and wanted to go to girl's senior high school. At Sanyo Girl's High School there was a teacher named Petty (?) who was from America. She came to our church and gave talks. I wanted to go there very badly but in Japan, we couldn't go unless we paid tuition. As you know, in those days we couldn't work as school girls. Therefore, I just completed junior high school, took some supplementary courses and sewing and was living at home but kept saying I definitely wanted to become a Red Cross nurse. At that time, the rural district supervisor came and said, "Yuki, go and become a Red Cross nurse. You are physically fit for it." However, my relatives were against it. To wear a white uniform and white shoes and walk the hallway, they said I was self conceited. They told me I definitely could not go through with the idea. I said in that case please

do not talk about marriage as I may become a nun.

I was taking flower arrangement and tea ceremony lessons from the local Buddhist priest's wife. She told me never become a priest's wife because it is a very difficult task. I said I'll become a nun. She said not to do that because you are a fine lady. So I left home and went to Kagawa Prefecture to teach.

Q: How old were you then -- About 15 years old?

A: Little older than that because I went by myself.

Around my home town, many were "Shingon Shu" sect Buddhists. When I was 7 and 11 years old, I made pilgrimages through "Shikoku" (one of the main islands in Japan. Kagawa Prefecture is on this island) with a group so I knew a little about the area. There is a port named "Tonosho" in Kagawa Prefecture. Near there was a town called "Fuchizaki" by the seashore. I rented a house there and taught and also took "koto" lessons from a blind teacher.

Q: Were you on your own then?

A: Yes, I was. My family objected but I insisted that I was not going to get married. I even thought of going to Shanghai (China). Wasn't I stubborn. I knew a person who worked as a waitress in an inn called "Tokiwa" in Shanghai. I wrote and asked her if I could come there. She wrote back for me to come but I did not receive permission to go, I kept telling my folks that I don't want to get married. I was young and reckless. I stayed in Kagawa Prefecture quite a while but went back home

at the insistance of my folks. While I was in Kagawa Prefecture a marriage proposal with Mr. Kageta came up. I thought to myself, maybe I should go to America. Even if the marriage didn't work out well, I thought there would be a way to make a living if I came over. It's the truth. However, after I got married four children were born in 9 years. One year, all four were in the same grammar school. We lived in Fair Oaks, California then.

Q: How did you get married to Mr. Kageta?

A: It was like a picture bride. The matchmaker came and told me Mr. Kageta was the director of a company and I could be his secretary. I asked him if he was telling the truth and he replied why should he lie. I mentioned, "isn't he just a working man on a fruit ranch?" He said I had a saucy tongue and he was mad. I told him I would take that risk and go.

Q: Did you already know what Japanese immigrants were doing in America those days?

A: I had a general idea as people were talking about it. I said he is probably a working man with the fruit growers. People around me asked why I said such things. I didn't hesitate. I told then if I go, I have to be prepared for such situation.

Q: What was Mr. Kageta doing?

A: He was farming on a ranch about 10 miles from Placerville, California. It was a lonely place. The deer and coyotes came to the porch and it was frightening. I thought to



myself I came to a lonely place because I came against my parents wishes. One good thing was that the boss's wife (who came from Oakland and was a teacher) had a Japanese couple from Kumamoto, Japan working for her as cooks. I was glad because this couple taught and helped me in many ways. They took me into their pantry and taught me names of kitchen utensils and then started to teach me cooking. The boss's wife told them to have something for me to eat whenever I went. We were on the same farm and it wasn't far to go but I felt bad imposing on them. But they told me Mrs. Warner wanted me to eat. Mrs. Warner called me and asked me names of different articles. I watched her speak but I had difficulty in pronouncing. She asked Mr. Hoshiko (the cook) to teach me the two beginner's books and she started to teach me the from the third book.

Q: Was the marriage recorded in Japan before you left there?

A: Yes.

Q: Was the wedding ceremony held in Japan?

A: No, it was held here. After the marriage was recorded, I went to live with Mr. Kageta's relatives until my turn to get on the steamship came. At about that time, one of the steamship was grounded. Due to shortage, we had to draw for our turn. From America, Mr. Kageta sent word to his relatives not to send me until later because fruit season started and he was busy. His brother wanted to delay my departure but I wanted to come as soon as I could. I knew Mr. Kageta would not leave me stranded.

Once I left my home and came to Kobe, I was determined not to return to my folks' place because I didn't want to go through the ordeal of parting with them again. I said I would go out and work as a maid or do something until my turn to get on the ship came. I was a very stubborn person.

Q: You were already at Mr. Kageta's home then?

A: Yes, in the meanwhile, I was able to get on the ship to Seattle. When I reached Seattle, there was a telegram at Hotel "Fujii" from my husband saying that he was busy with fruit season and instructing them to have me wait at the immigration office until he was able to come after me. But he came after me before too long. Some were detained at the immigration office for a long time because they had trachoma or hookworm. We all had to sleep on bunk beds. Fortunately, I passed my physical examination and was able to join my husband.

Q: What was your impression when you first met your husband?

A: I thought to myself, is this my husband? We were married in a Buddhist Church there witnessed by the owner of the hotel.

Q: From Seattle, did you come straight to here?

A: No, we came to San Francisco and stayed in a hotel for a few days. Then we came to Placerville. It was very lonely. I saw a light shining and asked my husband where it was coming from. He told me it was from the other side of the valley. We had to go 2 miles to get our mail those days.

Q: Was Mr. Kageta farming by himself?

A: Yes, he was.

Q: Did he own the land?

A: No, it was on a contract basis. There was a man who came from Wakayama, Japan working for him and some from Hiroshima, Japan came to work for him at fruit packing time.

Q: Was this in Placerville?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: What did you think of America when you came?

A: Before I left Japan, I knew a man from my area who came and lived in Los Angeles. When his mother heard I was coming to Sacramento, she asked me to bring her son, Uhei, a message. I questioned, isn't it far? No, she thought Los Angeles and Sacramento were not too far apart. I promised to bring the message to him and mentioned it to my husband while we were in San Francisco. He answered, how can we go that far to give a verbal message. We later gave him the message by letter.

Q: What was your first impression of America?

A: I didn't think too deep about it but thought I was physically able to carry on in this country.

Q: What was your thought when you met Caucasians?

A: I wasn't scared of Caucasians as I had met some in Japan before I came to this country although I was not able to converse with them. But I was a little scared of colored people. I was used to Chinese and Koreans, but I wasn't comfortable with the colored people.

Q: What was your age when you came to America?

A: I was 28 years old.

Q: What year was it?

A: 1916

Q: What sort of persons were there on the steamship?

A: Most of them were coming to the Seattle area.

Q: Were there many brides?

A: There weren't too many brides. They told me if I came as a first class passenger, it would be much easier to enter this country. But I didn't want to do that and came by third class. I thought I could meet and talk to more people which would be more interesting.

Q: Did anything happen on the steamship?

A: There was one divorce case. This lady saw her husband for the first time and didn't like the man so she refused to land. She asked to be sent back to Japan. I think she did. She was a younger person than I.

Q: Did you ever feel sad while you were in Placerville?

A: Yes. I thought about things my grandmother on my mother's side said, she told me that America was on the opposite side underneath Japan and asked what will happen if my ship capsized. I told her the earth was round and we didn't have to worry about anything like that but she was old and couldn't understand. She wondered how a child like I was born and she was sad I was leaving.

Q: Did anything sad happen after you came?

A: I had a strong willed older brother. I think I was influenced by him and wasn't the type to weaken. When

my two sons were taken into the army at the same time, I didn't break down. My friends thought I was a tough woman. One of my friends said, "Your husband is elderly and you are sending two sons away, my, you are a strong woman." I replied, "Why should you say that. We are enemy aliens and my sons are American citizens. It is natural that they serve their country. Even if they get killed in the war, I would not feel painful or sad." This friend is still living. However, both of my sons returned safely.

Q: How many years difference was there between you and Mr. Kageta's age?

A: He was 17 years older than I.

Q: Was there any difficulty because of the age difference?

A: Yes, there was a difficulty in many ways. He said I was fresh and extravagant. First place, I wasn't use to what he was eating. He was a bachelor for a long time and was use to dry provisions but I didn't like them. He scolded me for this but later got use to the food. Those days we had "miso soup" every morning -- coffee and bread only about once a week. For lunch, we had cooked vegetables and had rice three times a day.

Q: What did you have for dinner?

A: Mostly canned foods. If we wanted fresh fish or something else fresh, we had to go to Placerville by horse and buggy which took us quite a while to get there and back. There was a Chinese grocery store there but no Japanese store yet.

Q: How long did you live there?

A: Probably about 3 years.

Q: Where did you move to from there?

A: We moved to Florin and stayed only a short while. The Fruit Growers Association told us there was a good place in Galt so we moved there. We planted grapes and strawberries between the grape rows. There were 6 acres and we had several men working for us then.

Q: Did you buy the ranch?

A: No, it was owned by the Fruit Growers. We were sent there to farm on the ranch. There was a big camp for laborers and they built a house for us.

Q: Did you cook for the laborers?

A: Yes, I did. When we were busy, we had to hire more men from nearby towns like Lodi and Stockton.

Q: What was your job? What time did you get up in the mornings?

A: I got up at 4 or 5 a.m.

Q: What time was breakfast?

A: 6 a.m.

Q: Was lunch at 12 noon?

A: Yes. Then they worked till 5 p.m. in the afternoon. They had to ship strawberries on the same day they were picked so they quit picking about 5 p.m.

Q: What did you do in the evenings?

A: I did preparations for the next day.

Q: What time did you get to go to bed?

A: It was usually about 10 p.m.

Q: Was it hard for you?

A: No, I was prepared so it wasn't too bad.

Q: Did you have any children then?

A: Yes, I had two.

Q: From there where did you go to?

A: We moved to Fair Oaks. Children started to go to school there.

Q: When did you come to Loomis?

A: It was just before World War II.

Q: What year do you think it was?

A: I think it was in 1940 or 1941. We started to go to the Methodist Church regularly from then which we are very thankful.

Q: Was Mr. Makimoto there then?

A: Yes, Mr. Makimoto was there. He is a pioneer. He and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year or year before.

Q: Did anything happen after you came here? Did you buy the land?

A: Yes, we bought this land. There is quite a large acreage here. We cashed our life insurance policies and etc. and bought this place. Those days, land was not as expensive as now.

Q: At church, did you have a women's society then?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you enjoy it?

A: Yes, I kept attending women's society meetings and prayer meetings and still do. But my daughter-in-law

hasn't become a Christian as yet. I am praying daily that this family will become a Christian family before I die. Nichiren Buddhist family people are very hard to convert. Joe's wife is from a Nichiren family. She helps our church a lot but when we bring up the subject of baptism, she refuses. They only have one child. I don't know what happened, now days my granddaughter attends a Christian church in New Castle. It might be because of her friends. Recently, she told me she wanted a Bible so I told her to get one and I would give it to her as a Christmas gift. She bought one in San Francisco which was about \$11.00.

Q: Were you here when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: Yes, I think my son Joe went into the army soon after that. We were living in Penryn then. My younger son, Frank was an Eagle Scout and he was inducted first but I wanted the older one to go first. Also a scout, he had extra training in the Medical Corp and was about to receive his Eagle Scout. Because of the Pearl Harbor incident, the two boys were told to leave the Scouts. They cried but I told them better days will come. Joe was taken into Army Medical Corp then Frank was inducted from Heart Mountain WRA Center. At that time, we received news that Joe was injured. I was helping the Red Cross then and I wanted to inquire into the seriousness of Joe's injury but they couldn't tell me the degree of the injury. The telegram stated it was not serious. While Joe was returning from overseas, Frank



was on his way. Joe was confined in an Army hospital but one day, he came to visit us in the WRA Center. I was working in the mess hall taking care of baby food. Someone came to get me. I immediately asked if Joe was crippled but the child said no. I looked at Joe's injury and was terrified. The bullet went through his calf and he had a shattered wound which was sutured roughly. It was awful looking but I told Joe we should be thankful that he wasn't injured more seriously. At the battle field, I presume that it is hard to take care of wounds as they would like to. I asked Joe how it happened. He said one of his comrades was down after a battle and while he was giving the injured a morphine injection a stray bullet hit him.

Q: Was he in the 442 Battalion?

A: Yes, he was. You can see him now that he is not crippled. I thank God for this.

Q: How did you feel when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: It's hard to express that feeling. My husband and his helper were pruning fruit trees at the time we heard the news. It's a wonder they didn't fall from their ladder. We were so shocked. When I sent my son into the service, I told myself not to cry but I cried when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Q: You were shocked?

A: Yes, I was. My younger son was in the war zone for quite a while. One day, he wrote and asked me if he could start smoking because it was very lonely while on sentry

duty. I couldn't very well say no to him then. My husband liked to smoke but we told him to quit as cigarettes would be hard to get in the WRA Centers. But to my surprise it was easy to get and many people were smoking. We were criticized by other evacuees as loyal to this country. We had two sons serving in the Army and we had the right to but we were denounced. One person who was critical of us then is now in a hospital after a stroke and cannot talk.

Q: What did they say?

A: When there was distribution of clothes and etc., they said to give us leftover things because we were the "Loyal Group". How could they do such inhuman things! I was surprised how well the War Relocation Authority took care of us. I didn't expect that much.

Q: When you received the evacuation notice, did you think you would ever get back to your home?

A: When we were in the WRA Center, the office encouraged us to relocate. I said we can't farm and what can we do if we get out. I'd rather stay here until the center closed. They mentioned there were many jobs outside but I made my mind to stay in the center.

Q: What was your reaction when you received the evacuation notice?

A: There wasn't much we could do. We had a good friend in Fair Oaks, they came and offered to keep our valualbes. We evacuated from Penryn. The boss in Penryn told us that he would insure our property and keep it for us but when

we returned, there was nothing there.

Q: What did your boss say when your furniture was all gone?

A: He said they were stolen. They came to see us at Tule Lake a couple times and I thought they were kind but when we came home nothing was there. I had a Red Cross pin and a Patriotic Women's Society badge I had received while I was in Japan. I put them in a can and buried them in the barn before I evacuated but that was gone, too. Before Mr. Kageta became a Christian, he worshipped "Kobe-Daishi". He took the miniature shrine to a big rock, left it there, offered incense and flowers and asked the Buddha to watch the place until we returned. Next day, he went to see the shrine and saw a snake around it. He told me he talked to the snake to watch the shrine and worshipped the snake before he returned home. My husband became a Christian after the war, attended church and prayer meetings.

Q: Which reception center did you go to?

A: To Marysville and then to Tule Lake. When Tule Lake became a segregation center, we moved to Heart Mountain.

Q: What sort of things happened in Tule Lake?

A: Lots of things happened. Some evacuees wore head bands and shouted Japan was winning. Some had Japan flags on their windows. When we mentioned we were moving to Heart Mountain, someone came and said, "I heard you are going to Heart Mountain. Elevation here is higher than where we came from but Heart Mountain is still higher. Do you think you can come back alive?" And then she

warned, "You had better watch out. They'll ask you to sign a paper on the train. Don't sign it. If you do, you won't have anything when you get back. Also, watch yourselves because higher elevation is hard on old people -- you can't breathe." She was very nasty. We came home safely so I went to visit her. She still lives in Penryn.

Q: What else was there? Any violence?

A: No, there wasn't. Just nasty words. They also criticized my husband's smoking but he surprisingly quit smoking when we got into the camp.

Q: Why was this?

A: I don't know why but he completely quit smoking.

Q: Was Heart Mountain a good place?

A: Yes, it was. When we reached there early in the morning, the Boy Scouts came to meet us. I was so thankful, I wanted to give them a donation and gave \$20.00.

Q: Was food good?

A: Was fairly good.

Q: Did you do Red Cross work there?

A: Yes, I did. When they called for help, I went.

Q: Did you return here when Heart Mountain WRA Center closed?

A: Yes, I did. In camp, we were asked to relocate but what can an old man and I do if we went outside. We asked them to keep us there.

Q: What happened after they closed?

A: We came back and stayed with the Uyeda family for a while and looked for a place to farm. We found and bought this

place.

Q: Where did you find living quarters when you returned?

A: We stayed with friends and my husband helped them.

Q: Was Joe with you?

A: No, just the two of us.

Q: Do you have any other memory of camp life?

A: We had a little garden. I searched for shells and made shell flowers and also paper flowers. I enjoyed doing these things.

Q: What was the reaction of the Caucasians when you returned?

A: We were dealt pretty well.

Q: Did you make any plans for your children's education?

A: Our children had high school education. We couldn't give them college education. My relatives in Japan wanted us to send our children to Japan for education but I am glad we didn't. My older brother died early and younger brother died of cancer little later.

Q: Did Joe return home after you were back for a while?

A: Yes, Joe came back.

Q: What year did Joe return home?

A: I don't remember well.

Q: Did he return after the war ended?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: How many years ago, did you move into this house?

A: We were in the other old house first. This house was small, too. We enlarged it recently. Frank married before Joe did.

Q: Is your husband living?

A: No, he died in the 1950's.

Q: You are well and still living. What are your feelings now?

A: All of my children live nearby and they will come whenever necessary. I feel fortunate for this. There are good and bad for being close, too. My daughter who lives in Penryn was a faithful Christian but she married into a Buddhist family.

Q: What do you want to say to the third generation?

A: I don't want to say anything to them.

Q: Why?

A: I talk about home training but they don't seem to listen. When my granddaughter was younger, she went to language school and listened to me but as she grew older, she wants her way and thinks I am old fashioned. The other day, I asked my daughter-in-law not to scold her child while eating. She replied, because I interfered, I'm spoiling the child. I don't intend to spoil her. I think anyone would lose appetite if scolded during meal time. My generation and younger generation don't seem to agree. She says "Meiji" era people are old fashioned. I trained my granddaughter to say good morning to her late grandfather's picture and say, "I'll be going to school," before she leaves in the morning. She says grandfather doesn't talk back. I explained to her that grandfather is in heaven with God and through God, grandfather knows what you are doing. However, this past week, she has quit

doing this. Reverend, I think third and fourth generation all should have some home training. They need to know etiquette and I feel they should learn some Japanese etiquette, too.

Q: How old is your granddaughter?

A: She is a sophomore in high school. She has learned to play the piano well.

Q: Is language the gap between you and the third generation?

A: Yes, I think it is.

Q: What kinds of fruit do you have on the ranch?

A: Mostly plums. We have some peaches.

Q: Can you find mushrooms on the mountain?

A: No.

Q: Do you have berries?

A: No.

Q: Isn't it nice that you are settled now?

A: Yes, it's relaxing in the country. My daughter-in-law works these days and I am alone during the day.

Q: Isn't it kind of lonesome to be by yourself all day?

A: Yes, but I have chores to do all day and I don't even take a nap. I read the Bible for a little while in the morning. When we get older, we can't do things fast anymore because our eyes are weak and legs are wobbly.

Q: Do you do Japanese dancing?

A: I don't do much dancing. I play the "koto" but I didn't bring any from Japan. My mother thought it was a shame to give it up because I was quite advanced. I told her I didn't need it because I would be busy farming. I gave

the "koto" to my cousin against the wishes of my mother.

Q: Are you glad you came to America?

A: Now days many people are playing the "koto" over here but in those days, if we brought a "koto", our people laughed. I have a "taisho-koto", I bought it in Yokohama on the way to America. I play it sometimes.

Q: What is a "taisho-koto"?

A: It's a small "koto" and has wires but no comparison to the other.

Q: You Issei went through lot of hardships, didn't you?

A: We experienced a little of everything.

Q: Thank you for telling me your experience. If the educators or third generation Japanese want to hear this tape for information, is it all right to let them hear it? Also, if a book should be written using the information on these tapes, would you want to hold ownership of these tapes or you don't care if the Issei Story Project owns them?

A: I don't care.

Q: If they should be used for a book, we shall consult you.

A: All right.

Q: Will you please sign this paper. The date is on here, December 21, 1973.

A: All right.



## Appendix

Itadakimasu<sup>1</sup> - I will have my food. Page 2